

## Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2055

UNCLAS CARACAS 1945

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, BEXP, VE

SUBJ: CONTRACT SIGNED FOR EVALUATION OF DOMESTIC ALUMINA SOURCE  
MATERIAL-EARLY WARNING

1. THE COMMISSION FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH  
(CONICIT)

AND THE VENEZUELAN INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (IVIC)  
HAVE SIGNED A CONTRACT THROUGH WHICH IVIC IS TO UNDERTAKE A  
STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE USE OF LATERITE FOR THE PRODUC-  
TION OF ALUMINA.

2. VENEZUELA DOES NOT HAVE BAUXITE IN INDUSTRIAL QUANTITIES  
AND IS PRESENTLY IMPORTING ALUMINA CONSUMED BY ITS ALUMINA  
REDUCTION PLANT. WITH THE PROJECTED INCREASE OF ALUMINA  
REDUCTION CAPACITY TO REACH OVER 400,000 TONS OF REFINED  
ALUMINUM PER YEAR, THE ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINA IS  
EXPECTED TO REACH 940,000 TONS BY 1980. THERFORE,  
INTEREST IS KEEN IN THE EXPLOITATION OF DOMESTIC ALUMINA SOURCE  
MATERIALS.

3. THE CONTRACT CONTAINS A CLAUSE WHICH SPECIFIES THAT FUTURE  
TECHNICAL PHASES OF THIS PROJECT MAY BE OPENED TO INTERNATIONAL  
BIDDING IF IVIC PROVES TO BE INCAPABLE OF DEVELOPING THE  
NECESSARY TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES.  
SHLAUDEMAN

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## Message Attributes

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